

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 050744
ORIGIN EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 SP-02 /030 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/NE:REWOODS:LP
APPROVED BY EUR:AAHARTMAN
EUR - MR. VINE
EUR/NE - MR. CROWLEY
S/S - RPERITO

-----080736Z 066958 /14

R 080147Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 050744

LIMDIS, FOR AMBASSADOR FROM HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FI

SUBJECT: POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS

REF.: HELSINKI 426

1. APPRECIATE YOUR INITIATIVE IN PROPOSING VISIT TO
HELSINKI TO EXCHANGE VIEWS PRIOR TO KEKKONEN'S MOSCOW TRIP.
AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, HOWEVER, WE HAVE DECIDED
AGAINST SUCH CONSULTATIONS AT THIS TIME.

2. US POSITIONS ON NUMBERS OF KEY ISSUES ARE UNDER CURRENT
REVIEW, AND ADDITIONAL TIME AND CONSULTATIONS WITH ALLIES
ARE REQUIRED PRIOR TO DETAILED DISCUSSION ON OVERALL DIREC-
TION OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY. A COMPREHENSIVE HIGH LEVEL
REVIEW WITH FINLAND IS THEREFORE PREMATURE, PARTICULARLY
PRIOR TO COMPARABLE INITIATIVES WITH IMPORTANT NATO
CAPITALS WHOSE POLICY AND SECURITY ARE MORE INTIMATELY
INTERWINED WITH OUR OWN. BILATERAL TALKS ON SELECTED
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ISSUES WILL OF COURSE CONTINUE, AS IN THE COMING VISITS TO
HELSINKI BY JACK MARESCA AND ALLARD LOWENSTEIN.

3. THE PROBLEM THUS IS TIMING. SHOULD THE VICE PRESIDENT
DECIDE TO VISIT FINLAND THIS SUMMER, HIS TRIP WILL PROVIDE
THE SORT OF OPPORTUNITY YOU PROPOSE. IF THIS DOES NOT
MATERIALIZE, PERHAPS WE CAN CONSIDER A LOWER LEVEL VISIT TO

THE SAME END. I AGREE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF ENSURING THAT

THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT IS AWARE OF DEVELOPMENTS IN US
POLICY, BUT FOR THE PRESENT, BELIEVE THE EXCHANGE IS BEST
MANAGED LARGELY BY YOU AT THE EMBASSY LEVEL.

4. IN THIS REGARD, WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO PROVIDE YOU AND
OTHER CHIEFS OF MISSION WITH AS FULL GUIDANCE AS POSSIBLE
FOR USE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.
SHOULD YOU IDENTIFY AREAS WHERE MORE MATERIAL WOULD BE
USEFUL, PARTICULARLY IN ANTICIPATION OF KEKKONEN'S VISIT
TO MOSCOW, PLEASE LET US KNOW SO WE MAY ATTEMPT TO FILL
ANY GAPS.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MEETINGS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE050744
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: REWOODS:LP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770078-1317
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770382/aaaactvc.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7125febb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 77 HELSINKI 426
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3175308
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, FI
To: HELSINKI
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7125febb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009